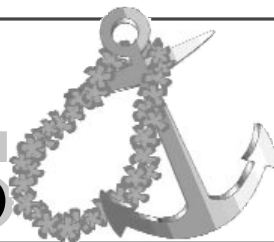


# Hawaii Navy News



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1997 Chief of Information Merit Award Winner

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## IN BRIEF

### Navy/Marine Corps Relief Society fund drive continues

NMCRS is extending their fund drive to allow servicemembers time to help their shipmates with donations of food, time or money.

NMCRS assists Sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen in need with monies in the form of low-interest loans and grants, food, in-home nurse care and more.

The society also offers free training classes for servicemembers and their families. The many programs they offer are provided by a mostly volunteer staff.

Donations to NMCRS go back, dollar for dollar, to Sailors and their families.

Contact the NMCRS at 473-2374 or see your NMCRS fund drive keyperson for more information.

### PACFLT hoopsters wanted to be WNBA player for a day

To honor outstanding Pacific Fleet Sailors, the Phoenix Mercury Women's National Basketball Association team has offered one PACFLT Sailor the opportunity to be a professional basketball player for a day on May 19, 1999 during their try-outs in Phoenix, Az.

The Sailor selected will spend a full day with the players and coaches and participate in drills with the players as they prepare for the upcoming season.

Expenses for the Sailor will be covered by CINCPACFLT.

Send applications to: CINCPACFLT Fleet Master Chief's Office, no later than April 30, 1999 via fax at 474-3116 or by message if under-way. For more information, call 471-376.

## INSIDE HINN



**Ford Island 10K:** Thousands turn out for the second annual race. B-1

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## 'Better safe than sorry'

### NEPMU-6 Sailors get first part of six anthrax vaccinations

By J02 Greg Cleghorne

HNN ASSISTANT EDITOR

"I'd rather get the anthrax vaccine than not get it," said Hospital Corpsman 3rd Class Oliver Bascon, Navy Environmental and Preventive Medicine Unit Six (NEPMU-6), Mobilization Medical Augmentation Readiness Team (MMART) member. "I'd rather be safe than sorry."

NEPMU-6/MMART team members recently began their six-part vaccination series against the threat of anthrax by taking a short walk from their command to the Naval Medical Clinic, Makalapa. With little ceremony, they received the first injection, just like receiving any other vaccinations servicemembers are required to take.

Anthrax, according to U.S. Government medical agencies, is an acute infectious disease caused by the spore-forming bacterium *Bacillus Anthracis*. The naturally occurring spore bacterium is most commonly found around the world

**Amidst that military-wide discussion about the anthrax vaccine, Bascon shrugged and said, "I'd rather have it than go into an area unprotected."**

- HM3 Oliver Bascon, NEPMU-6

in the agricultural regions of the U.S., Central and South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Eastern Europe, the



J02 Greg Cleghorne photo

HM3 Oliver Bascon, of NEPMU-6 MMAR team, receives his first of six anthrax vaccinations at the Naval Medical Clinic, Makalapa last week.

Middle East and Asia.

The bacteria can also be found in poorly processed meat products.

In its most dangerous airborne form, as a spore, the bacteria can be inhaled and cause fatal damage to the large blood vessels near the heart.

In some cases, death comes as quickly as two days.

Biological warfare threats are very real. It was just four years ago on March 20, 1995 when a doomsday cult in Japan planted a package containing deadly sarin nerve gas in a Tokyo subway at rush hour, killing 12 and sickening more than 5,000.

Nerve agents are a notorious part of 20th century warfare. They have been called "the poor man's weapons of mass

destruction," and are reportedly inexpensive to produce.

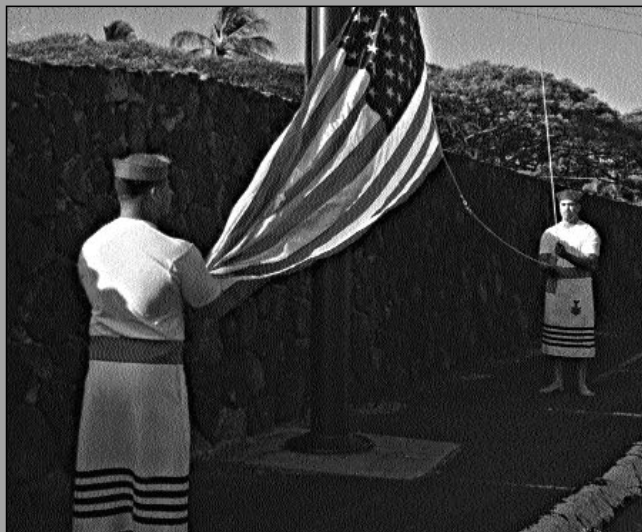
The Department of Defense mandated a "total force inoculation" program - Anthrax Vaccination Implementation Plan (AVIP) - to combat the possibility that such agents could be used as a tactical weapon against U.S. servicemembers.

That decision sparked continuing conversations among today's servicemembers about the hazards of the disease and the proposed protection against it.

Amidst that military-wide discussion about the anthrax vaccine, Bascon shrugged and said, "I'd rather have it

▼ See ANTHRAX, A-4

## Naval Station commemorates American Samoan Flag Day



J01 David Nagle photo

Staff Sgt. Ami Masaniai of Hickam Air Force Base's 15th Security Police Squadron (left) and YN2 Damien Sagapolu of Naval Station Pearl Harbor perform morning colors last Saturday in the traditional uniform of the Fita-Fita Guard. See story on page A-8.

## Chosin donates computers to local elementary school

By Ens. James Dudley

USS CHOSIN

In order to ensure that all shipboard systems are Y2K compliant and meet the standards set by the Chief of Naval Operations mandated Information Technologies in the 21st Century (IT21) initiative, commands both ashore and afloat are busy upgrading computer systems and associated equipment.

What is done with all of that replaced computer technology?

USS Chosin (CG 65) recently decided to turn the ship's older computer equipment into a windfall for a local school.

Since October 1998, Chosin has installed 46 computers that meet Y2K and IT21 standards. This resulted in a surplus of old-

▼ See COMPUTERS, A-3

## Boy Scouts team up with Seabees

By J02 Michelle Tuggle

THIRD NAVAL CONSTRUCTION BRIGADE

Community. The word means joint ownership or participation, as so stated by Mr. Webster.

It also may be defined as a body of people having common organization or interests.

With a little help from the Seabees and a great deal of diligence, one young Eagle Scout recently showed interest in his community by planning, managing and completing a much needed con-

struction project at his local youth center.

For 16-year-old Andy Thornton, serving the needs of his community is a vital function. In fact, Andy's intuitiveness led him to call upon the Seabees for a sidewalk construction project, and his dedication to the Catlin, Halsey, Radford Community led him to success in becoming an Eagle Scout.

Achieving status as an Eagle Scout is not an easy task. When Andy learned that he must complete a major project, he hit the ground running.

His task would include planning, es-

timating and coordinating manpower and materials for a 312-foot sidewalk and a 10'X10' concrete slab to house a flag pole, both at the Catlin, Halsey, Radford Community Center.

"There were Boy Scouts from all age groups out there pitching in," recalled Pete Thornton, the group's Scoutmaster and Andy's dad.

"I was extremely proud of the entire group. We knew we needed help with such a big project, but it was Andy who

▼ See BOY SCOUTS, A-3

## SECDEF praises service members for Allied Force performance

By Jim Garamore

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

U.S. service members are doing an outstanding job in both the military and humanitarian missions of Operation Allied Force, said Defense Secretary William S. Cohen. He also said morale is high even though military personnel are being stretched by the effort.

During an interview with Armed Forces Radio and Television Service, Cohen attributed the high morale to the fact that U.S. forces are performing the missions they have trained for and because they "understand what the consequences are of not taking action, with those hundreds of thousands of refugees just pouring out of Kosovo after being assaulted, degraded, humiliated and murdered by [Serb President Slobodan] Milosevic's troops."

Cohen also said the abduction and apparent mistreatment of the three U.S. Army cavalry scouts while they were on a peacekeeping mission in Macedonia has also increased support for Operation Allied Force.

"It solidified their determination to see the mission through," said Cohen. Cohen said the U.S. has sent a strong message that "if any harm comes to those three soldiers, [Milosevic] is going to pay a very substantial penalty."

Cohen said since the warning, the Serbs indicated they would treat the three U.S. soldiers as prisoners of war, entitled to all the protections of the Geneva Convention.

"They'll be returned safely to the United States following the end of this conflict," Cohen said. "We will hold them to that."

Cohen said Allied Force might temporarily create some operational stress for the military.

Cohen said this commitment would place some strain on the 1.4 million-person force, but that adjustments will be made "to get back to that predictability and tempo that will provide for that solid family life as well." Cohen said other missions will not be affected by the ongoing air campaign.

"We're able to keep up operations in Bosnia and Iraq," he said. "I would say to Saddam Hussein that he'd be making a big mistake to try and challenge the United States at this point. We have more than enough force to deal with him."

Cohen said the U.S. investment in high-tech weaponry has paid off. U.S. smart bombs, cruise missiles, B-2 bombers, AEGIS destroyers, and submarines have worked "magnificently" so far. The NATO military command has also worked well.

"So far we've learned a great deal about the interoperability we have among the allied forces," he said. "We have good command, control and communications. We have a seamless planning effort underway and an execution plan that again confirms that this alliance is the strongest in the history of the world."

But it all comes down to people, he said. "They're doing an outstanding job," said Cohen. "All of the damage assessment reports I see assure me that we are number one for all the right reasons. We have the best people in the world in our military and they are performing magnificently."